

McKee-Smalls House (Robert Smalls House)
511 Prince Street
Beaufort
Beaufort County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-398

WKS
SC
7 - Beaufort
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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| STATE SOUTH CAROLINA | COUNTY BEAUFORT | TOWN OR VICINITY BEAUFORT |
| HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) MCKEE-SMALLS HOUSE | | HABS NO. SC-398 |
| SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Smalls, Robert, House | | |
| COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 511 Prince Street | | |
| DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1843 (original part) | | ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) |
| SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Robert Smalls (1839-1915) was an important black lawmaker who fought for black rights in the years following the end of the Civil War, serving in the South Carolina legislature and the United States Congress. Born a slave, he became a national hero during the Civil War by capturing a Confederate ship, the Planter. In his declining years, he served as a customs collector for the Port of Beaufort. | | |
| STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) | | |
| MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Frame with white painted clapboards | | |
| SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) rectangular shape | | |
| EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Two-story balustraded porch with central pediment on front elevation; gable roof with east and west pediments; common double-hung sash windows. | | |
| INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) | | |
| MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1850: bedroom added over the center of the T-shaped rear section, resulting in the removal of the Palladian window; 1870: second story added to front porch; 1880: first floor room added to the back of the T-shaped rear section; 1950: supporting pillars of the house bricked in with old bricks. | | |
| PRESENT CONDITION AND USE | | |
| OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The original structure had a one-story front porch and an Adam-style front door which opened onto a central hall flanked by two principal rooms. It also had a T-shaped rear section. Both first and second floor rooms had dados. One first floor room had an Adam-style mantle and a molded dentil ceiling. | | |
| SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Smalls, Robert. National Historic Landmark nomination form, 1974. For more information: Uya, Okon E. <u>From Slavery to Public Service: Robert Smalls (1839-1915)</u> , Oxford University Press, 1971. | | |
| COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, HABS architectural historian | | DATE 09/16/85 |